

By the Provest, Baillies, and  
Counsell of Edinburgh,

3. March, 1658.



Orsameikle, as the good Town hath been, and is greatly abused by suffering Strangers, Vagabounds, Unfree Persons, Beggars, Poor, and Indigent Bodies, to plant and have their Habitation and Dwelling within this Burgh. By the which means, of the saids Unfree Persons, (and such as they reser) The Town is defiled with all kinde of Vice, the Liberty of Free-men usurped by the saids Unfree Persons, The Town over-burdened with sustaining of that kind of People, their Wives, Children and such as they reser in time of Pestilence or Famine, and the Monethly contribution appointed for their own Poore, imployed and consumed upon them. For remeid whereof, It is thought expedient, Statute and Ordained, that no Persons set their Houses, or Lands in time comming to any Unfree Persons that are not Landed Gentlemen, or Members of the Colledge of Justice, without a speciall Ticket of a Baillie of the Quarter in Writ, under the pain of an unlaw of 20 l. to be taken off the Setters and owners of these Lands, for ilk Person to whom their Land or House is set, with the Escheet of an Years mail to the Towns use. And farder, to sustain their Tennents in time of need, and to make the Town free thereof. And where any Lands or Houses are set to such Persons, That the Owners or Setters remove and put the saids Persons therefra instantly, and warne them timeously for that effect under the pain foresaid: And is found and declared, that the Baillies shall give no Ticket to the saids Unfree Persons, but upon Caution to be found and Acted in the Towns Books, that they shall observe and keep the Heeds following, To wit, That they shall receive no Vagabounds, nor Masterlesse Persons within their House under the pain of 20 lib. swa oft as they failzie. Item that they shall use no unlawfull Vocation, nor usurpe the Liberty of a Free-man, under the said pain. Item, that neither they, their Servants, Wives, nor Children shall be burthenable to the good Town, under the pain of an unlaw of an Hundreth merks. Item that they shall be no wayes dissobedient to the Kirk, or Magistrats, or Officers of the said Burgh, under the said pain, and their pains to be payed be the saids Cautioners. And farder, It is statute and ordained, that all Our-land poor Beggars and other Poor, that hath not been burgesse Bairns in this Burgh, remove and dispatch themselves forth of this Burgh, Bounds, and Liberties thereof, and retire to the place, or Parish where they were born, swa that they be not found nor seen within the samine at any time hereafter, under the pain of putting Them in the Theeves-hole 48 hours for the first fault, and scourging swa oft as they shall be found hereafter. And ordains the foresaid Act to be Printed and proclaimed through this Burgh, be Tuke of Drum, and Coppies thereof affixt in all the Publick places of the samine, that none pretend Ignorance. And that the Constables put the said Act to Execution, and get Printed Copies thereof delivered to them for that effect,

*Ja: Wright.*